

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6309

S E C R E T CAIRO 8856

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR XF EG US

SUBJECT: HELPING SADAT --EXCHANGE WITH SOVIETS

REF: STATE 213675

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, I CONVEYED TO HIM IN DETAIL CONTENTS OF REFTEL. I STRESSED THAT WE ARE TAKING A TOUGH LINE WITH THE SOVIETS AND ARE ALREADY DOING WHAT HE HAD ASKED OF US IN ORDER TO HELP SADAT. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF THE LINE THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TAKING WITH EGYPT SO THAT WE MIGHT BETTER COORDINATE OUR RESPONSES. FAHMY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION. HE ASKED OSAMA AL-BAZ TO TAKE NOTES AND TO SEND AN IMMEDIATE REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERY, HE NOTED THE SOVIETS ARE ACTIVE ON SEVERAL LEVELS:

A) AT UN HEADQUARTERS MALIK HAS TOLD WALDHEIM SOVIETS REFUSE TO CONSIDER NEW AGREEMENT IN CONTEXT OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. MOREOVER, THEY SEE AN ORGANIC CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE ROLE OF UNEF AND THE AMERICAN PRESENCE. MALIK HAD ASKED WALDHEIM NOT TO CIRCULATE THE AGREEMENT, BUT THE SYG HAD BY THEN ALREADY DONE SO. MALIK HAD ALSO INDICATED HE WILL OBJECT TO ANY INCREASE OF UNEF FORCES AND THEIR DEPLOYMENT IN THE EXPANDED BUFFER ZONE. FAHMY HAS INSTRUCTED EGYPTIAN PERMDEL, MEGUID, TO REMIND WALDHEIM THAT NO ONE IS

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ASKING FOR THE FORMAL PRESENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT TO THE UNSC AT

THIS TIME. HE SHOULD THANK THE SYG FOR CIRCULATING THE AGREEMENT, BUT POINT OUT THAT NO ONE IS ASKING FOR UNSC APPROVAL. UNSC SHOULD NOT DISCUSS UNEF UNTIL OCTOBER 24, WHEN FAHMY WILL BE IN NEW YORK. SO FAR AS US PRESENCE IS CONCERNED, MEGUID SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT GOE REGARDS THIS AS SYMBOLIC AND ACCEPTS IT AS THE BEGINNING OF THE KIND OF FINAL GUARANTEES THAT WILL BE NECESSARY ONCE AN OVERALL SOLUTION IS EVENTUALLY REACHED. WALDHEIM SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT GOE SEES NO NEED TO INCREASE UNEF NOW BEFORE THE RENEWAL. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO DO SO, SINCE ONLY ABU RUDAYS WILL BE RETURNED IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS AND UNEF SHOULD BE ABLE TO MANAGE THIS WITHIN EXISTING PERSONNEL RESOURCES. ANY INCREASE IN UNEF WILL NOT BE NECESSARY FOR AT LEAST 5 MONTHS. ABOVE ALL, MEGUID IS TO IMPRESS UPON WALDHEIM THAT THE SYG SHOULD TAKE NO PRECIPITOUS ACTION BY THE UNSC, WHICH COULD ONLY PLAY INTO SOVIET HANDS. WALDHEIM SHOULD NOT RPT NOT ACT WITHOUT PRIOR REFERENCE TO FAHMY.

B) (FAHMY DIGRESSED HERE TO EXPRESS HIS ANNOYANCE OVER A STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY MADE BY UK PERMREP, IVOR RICHARDS, WHICH EGYPTIANS REGARD AS UNHELPFUL. MEGUID HAS ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SO INDICATE TO RICHARDS AND TO POINT OUT LATTER'S STATEMENT IS INCONSISTENT WITH PUBLIC POSITION OF HMG AND CALLAGHAN.)

C) ON GLOBAL BASIS, FAHMY SAYS THE SOVIETS HAVE SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL OF THEIR EMBASSIES ABROAD TO ATTACK THE AGREEMENT AND SADAT. THEY ARE WORKING IN BEIRUT, IN LIBYA AND IN SYRIA AS WELL AS IN ALL THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND ARE DOING SO AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. HE MENTIONED A RECENT PUBLIC ATTACK BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRIME MINISTER ON THE AGREEMENT. THEIR PURPOSE IS TO SMEAR SADAT'S IMAGE AND THEREBY UNDERMINE HIS POSITION. THEY ARE TRYING TO PRESENT THE US ROLE AS IMPERIALISTIC, PRO-ISRAELI, OPPOSED TO ANY MEANINGFUL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, AND DISHONEST. THEY ARE ALSO SUGGESTING TO ASAD THAT HE NOT RENEW UNDOF. (THE EGYPTIANS HAVE A REPORT FROM DAMASCUS THAT KHADDAM HAS STATED SYRIA WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT FAHMY DOUBTS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS. HE IS NOT EVEN CERTAIN THAT SUCH A SYRIAN DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.)

D) ON THE BILATERAL FRONT, THE SOVIETS HAVE SINCE LAST FRIDAY BEEN SEEKING TO PROVOKE SADAT. THEY ARE SUCCEEDING, AS EVIDENCED BY
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SADAT'S MOST RECENT INTERVIEW BITTERLY ATTACKING THE SOVIETS (CAIRO 8846). HE, FAHMY, HAD MET WITH THE SOVIET CHARGE THREE TIMES LAST FRIDAY. CHARGE HAD COME WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP STATING THEY WISH TO WITHDRAW THE FOUR M-25 FOXBATS CURRENTLY IN EGYPT ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE GOES DOES NOT ALLOW AN EXCHANGE OF CREWS AND DOES NOT PERMIT SPARE PARTS TO COME IN. THIS MATTER HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN GAMASY AND SOVIET DATT ADMIRAL IVLIEV. FAHMY HAD RESPONDED THAT THE ATTEMPTED

ELEVATION OF THIS PROBLEM FROM THE MILITARY TO POLITICAL LEVEL HAS POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND HAD REFUSED IT. HE HAD THREATENED THAT, IF THE SOVIETS DO NOT WITHDRAW THEIR REQUEST, HE WILL BE FORCED TO "EXPOSE" THEM IN THE ARAB WORLD BY PUBLICLY INDICATING THAT THE MIG 25S HAVE DONE NOTHING. WHEN GOE ASKED THEM TO FLY EVEN OVER EGYPTIAN AREAS OF SINAI, SOVIET CREWS HAD REFUSED WITHOUT SPECIFIC MOSCOW AUTHORIZATION. THE MATTER, FAHMY HAD INSISTED, SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE MILITARY LEVEL. MOREOVER, UNLESS THE SOVIET MIG 25 CREWS TAKE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY AND NOT FROM MOSCOW, THEY AND THEIR AIRCRAFT WILL BE EXPELLED.

E) THE SOVIETS ARE ALSO PRESSING HARD THAT GOE TAKE PORT SAID MINE CLEARANCE JOB FROM US NAVY AND TURN IT OVER TO THEM. THEY INSIST THAT OUR DOING THE JOB WILL PROVIDE US WITH SECRET INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOVIET MINES. FAHMY HAD DENIED THIS, EMPHASIZED IT IS THE EGYPTIAN NAVY THAT IS CLEARING THE MINES WITH THE HELP OF AMERICAN HELICOPTERS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. HE STRESSED THIS IS THE LINE WE SHOULD ALSO TAKE IN CONNECTION WITH ANY PUBLICITY ON THE PORT SAID MINE CLEARANCE.

3. AGREED TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON EXCHANGES WITH THE SOVIETS.
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